

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 98

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article I, Section 33 of the Constitution of Tennessee, to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude.

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 159 of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly, which proposed amendment of Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee, relative to prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude, was considered and agreed upon by a majority of all the members elected to each of the two houses, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals; and

WHEREAS, such resolution proposing such amendment was published in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, freedom from slavery and involuntary servitude is a right of every individual within the United States and any place subject to its jurisdiction, which right is secured by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly ratified the Thirteenth Amendment in April 1865; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that a two-thirds majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed that Article I, Section 33 of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

Section 33. Slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an inmate from working when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee, the foregoing proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people at the next general election in which a governor is to be chosen, the same being the 2022 November general election, and the Secretary of State is directed to place such proposed amendment on the ballot for that election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to deliver copies of this resolution to the Secretary of State, with this final resolving clause being deleted from such copies.